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Construction of tenements for Harijans in the City by the Director of Harijan Welfare.

* 1039 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state why the Director of Harijan Welfare is not constructing tenements for housing the Harijans in the City as was done by the Commissioner of Labour before the formation of a separate department for Harijan Welfare?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It is not the policy of the Government to construct houses for the Harijans. The housing of the Harijans in the Madras City is the primary responsibility of the Corporation of Madras. However, model tenements were constructed by the Commissioner of Labour, as a special case, in the following four colonies :—

(1) Ganesapuram ;

(2) Paddisonpuram ;

(3) Swathanthirapuram ; and

(4) Brislee Nagar Settlement.

Sixteen masonry plinths have been constructed as a special case by the Harijan Welfare Department at a cost of Rs. 8,470 in R.S. Nos. 124/1 & 2 of Perambur (Sundara Rao Naidupuram Colony) as the colony was frequently flooded by the backwaters of the Buckingham Canal."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know whether the Government are giving to the Corporation of Madras any gift or subsidy for this very laudable work which the Government expect the Corporation to do? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I do not know what the Member means. The Government have got their own department, and through that department work is being carried on."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" May I know why the tenements built in Sundara Rao Naidupuram Colony have not been occupied for the last three years? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I will find out."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising from the answer of the Hon. Minister that it is the duty of the Corporation of Madras to construct houses for Harijans and poor classes, may I know what aid the Government gave to the Corporation when it applied for a grant and what amount is allotted in the current year's budget for such work? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" A separate question may be put."

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SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is it a fact that with all the laudable work of the Corporation of Madras as claimed by Mr. Deivasigamany, the cheris are lacking in ordinary amenities like privies and drinking water? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The scheme is before the Corporation of Madras. The State Government has approved that scheme, and the matter is being taken up with the Government of India for getting subsidy, etc."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" In view of the fact that there are hundreds of homeless Harijans in the City of Madras, will the Government consider the desirability of giving a subsidy to the City Improvement Trust for constructing tenements for Harijans? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" We will consider."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Mr. Balakrishnan was pleased to refer to the fact that these Harijan cheris lack in public conveniences, etc. May I know whether the Hon. Minister visited any of these cheris and found out if these amenities were lacking? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" In some of the cheris, these amenities are lacking. But in most of the cheris, they are not lacking."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In view of the serious allegation made by Sri Balakrishnan against the working of the Corporation, may I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that he, as the Mayor of Madras, provided water-taps in cheris, provided overhead tanks which were kept open for drawal of water from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and also supplied water through lorries and also constructed dry type latrines wherever there were no flushout latrines, and that the Corporation is doing a laudable service? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I am thankful to the hon. Member for the compliments he has paid."

Grant of loans to Rural Co-operative House Building Societies in Tanjore district.

* 1040 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the sum proposed to be allotted for loans to Rural Co-operative House Building Societies in Tanjore district for the year 1954–55?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for 1954–55 for loans to rural housing societies in the State. District-war allotment will be made by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies on the basis of the reports from the Deputy Registrars regarding the requirements of rural housing societies."